



**McGregor W. Scott**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

**NEWS RELEASE**

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rosemary Shaul, 916-554-2700

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**FORMER MARYSVILLE RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 110 MONTHS FOR  
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND POSSESSION  
WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that RAUL ORTIZ VERA, 31, a former resident of Marysville, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to 110 months in prison for unlawful possession of a firearm and intent to distribute methamphetamine.

This case is the product of extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of the Marysville Police Department, the NET-5 drug Task Force of Northern California, the Yuba County Sheriff's office, and other local law enforcement in and around Yuba County.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, VERA was traveling by car through Marysville on January 4, 2007, when a Marysville Police Officer noticed that VERA's vehicle contained expired tags. VERA falsely identified himself and when the officer attempted to arrest VERA, he resisted arrest and attempted to flee. After a foot pursuit and struggle, VERA was arrested with the assistance of backup police officers. During the struggle, VERA attempted to get his loaded pistol from his waistband. A bag of methamphetamine was found on VERA's person and he attempted to discard another bag of methamphetamine during his flight. On March 16, 2007, VERA pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and for possession of over 50 grams of a mixture of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the drug. VERA has a prior California state conviction for possession of a sawed off shotgun. At the time of his arrest, VERA was wanted by local authorities in another county in Northern California for an unrelated drug trafficking offense. VERA has previously been deported from the United States.

After completing his 110 month federal prison term, VERA will be deported and under federal unsupervised release for four years should he return to the United States. VERA was remanded into custody after the sentencing hearing.

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